



## Wyoming Department of Education

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### MEMORANDUM NO. 2009 - 024

**TO:** School District Superintendents

**FROM:** Joe Simpson, Deputy State Superintendent 

**DATE:** February 13, 2009

**SUBJECT:** *Shoshone Voices, Native Choices*: an instructional DVD

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### INFORMATION TO SHARE

Attached is information regarding *Shoshone Voices, Native Choices*: an instructional DVD that is available for principals and teachers to purchase.

JS:sl

Attachments: 1

*Shoshone Voices, Native Choices*: an instructional DVD.

c2008. running time: 32 min.\$10.

Contact:

Robin Levin, Fort Washakie School/Community Library, 90 Ethete Road,  
Fort Washakie, WY 82514. [rlevin@freemont21.k12.wy.us](mailto:rlevin@freemont21.k12.wy.us)  
307-332-2380, ext 2800

Dear Colleagues,

The Eastern Shoshone Tribe is pleased to present an educational DVD to libraries and educators throughout Wyoming. *Shoshone Voices, Native Choices* tells the story of recent collaborations with the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI).

Six Shoshone students and six elders traveled to Washington, DC in June, 2006 as part of NMAI's outreach program to review and properly identify items in its vast collection of Native American artifacts. The ensuing research, authorship, and digital photography yielded successful identification of over 40 individual artifacts from the Shoshone Nation's history. Students has first-hand experiences in the archives working with museum curators, handling the items, describing them and preparing them for view in NMAI's virtual museum. Vocational opportunities are a highlight of this experience.

A few months after this week of scholarship, tribal elders and NMAI conducted an interactive video-conference between Washington and Fort Washakie, allowing for the identification of additional Shoshone artifacts. These two activities comprise the first segment of *Shoshone Voices, Native Choices*.

The second segment visits elders and friends here on the Reservation who demonstration how to make several Shoshone cultural items and their uses.

The third segment takes views to the annual Eastern Shoshone Powwow. Exciting drum and dance segments show this contemporary cultural celebration, with special footage of the Prairie Chicken Dance. Artifacts which were seen as museum pieces come to life in this integral part of the living, thriving Shoshone culture.

This program is packaged with a brief teacher's guide and lesson plan ideas.

If you would like copies, please contact: Fascinating Learning Factory

1-866-545-9955

1-303-545-6658 (fax)

Email: [bunnie@fascinating.tv](mailto:bunnie@fascinating.tv)

Sincerely,

Robin Levin, project director  
Head of Library Services

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